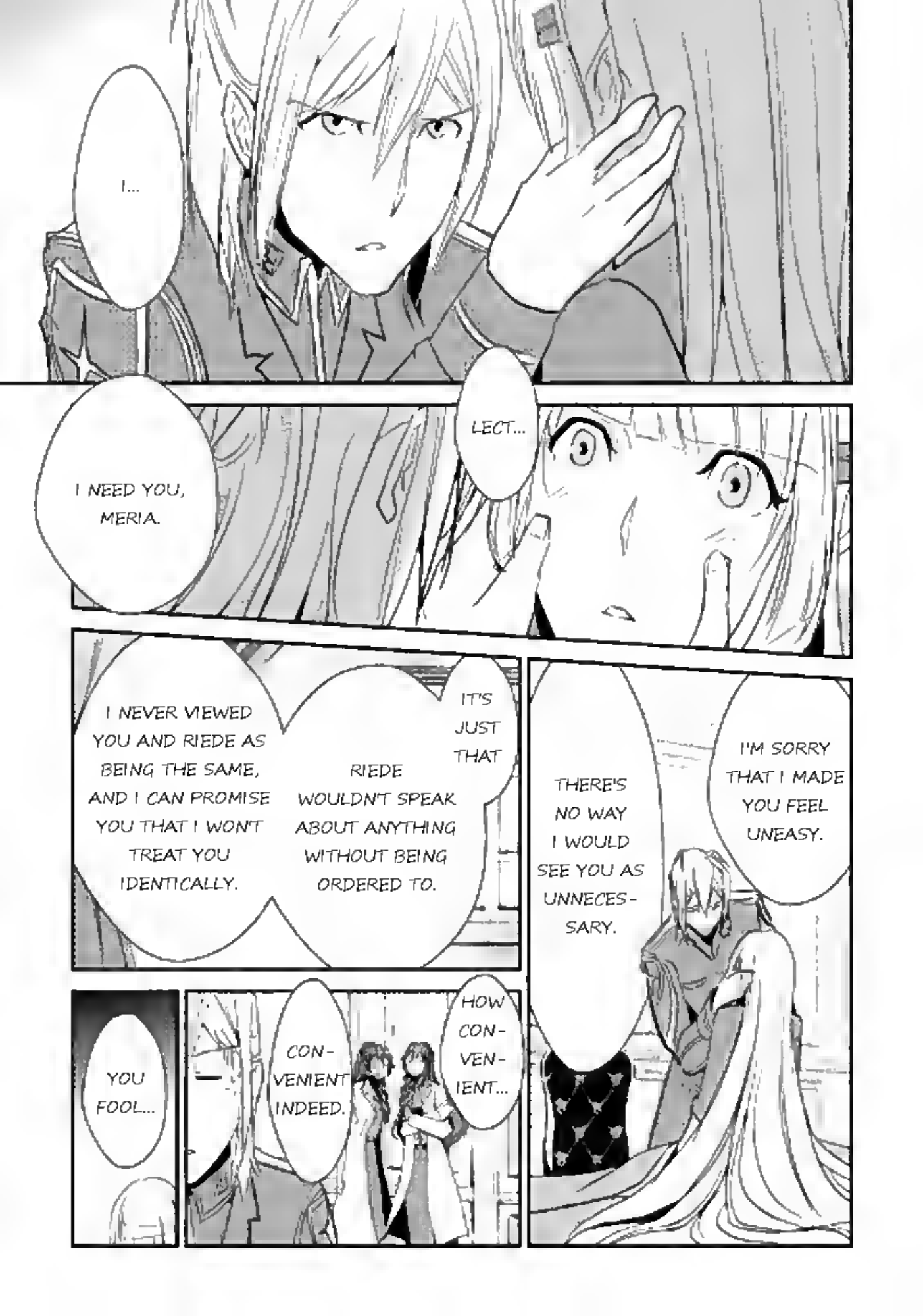
PERHAPS ONE DAY SHE WILL JOIN THE INNER PALACE AS A CONCUBINE...
I NEED TO TELL HER THE TRUTH HERE.
I WAS WITH RIEDE...
I DECIDED TO TAKE HER ON AS A STAFF OFFICER IN THE ROYAL GUARD.
... I CAN'T LIE TO MERIA.
I SEE...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
I GUESS YOU DON'T NEED ME.
白の皇国物語 第四十一回
原作：白沢戌亥 漫画：不二まーゆ

MERIA!
MY PERFORMANCE IN THAT BATTLE WAS DISAPPOINTING...
THAT'S FINE...
I LOST TO GLORIE.
I CAN'T BLAME LECT FOR THIS.
A DRAGON THAT WOULD LEAVE HER RIDER TO NEED TO DRAW HIS SWORD IS...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU WOULD ABANDON ME.
MERIA...
!


I...
LECT...
I NEED YOU, MERIA.
I NEVER VIEWED YOU AND RIEDE AS BEING THE SAME, AND I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT I WON'T TREAT YOU IDENTICALLY.
RIEDE WOULDN'T SPEAK ABOUT ANYTHING WITHOUT BEING ORDERED TO.
IT'S JUST THAT
I'M SORRY THAT I MADE YOU FEEL UNEASY.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD SEE YOU AS UNNECES-SARY.
YOU FOOL...
CON-VENIENT INDEED.
HOW CON-VEN-IENT...

YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL, LECT.
IF YOU JUST MAKE USE OF YOUR POSITION AS REGENT,
YOU CAN EASILY COME UP WITH ANY NUMBER OF EXCUSES.
IF YOU JUST ADMIT TO IT LIKE A NORMAL MAN, I HAVE TO WONDER IF
YOU'RE A FOOL, SIMPLY RUDE, OR JUST A LOVABLE IDIOT.
I-I'M SORRY...
BUT YOU BETTER NOT ASK ME FOR PERMISSION AFTER THE FACT AGAIN! I NEED TO MENTALLY PREPARE MYSELF AS WELL!
JUST REMEMBER THAT I'LL TEAR YOU TO PIECES NEXT TIME.
BUT I'LL PROTECT THAT AS WELL.
YOU'RE GONNA FORGIVE HIM?!

A FEW DAYS AFTER VISITING MERIELA, THE TIME AND DATE FOR LECTIVAL'S TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO THE CAPITAL WERE DECIDED ON.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CAPITAL WERE EXCITED UPON HEARING THE NEWS OF THE REGENT'S RETURN.

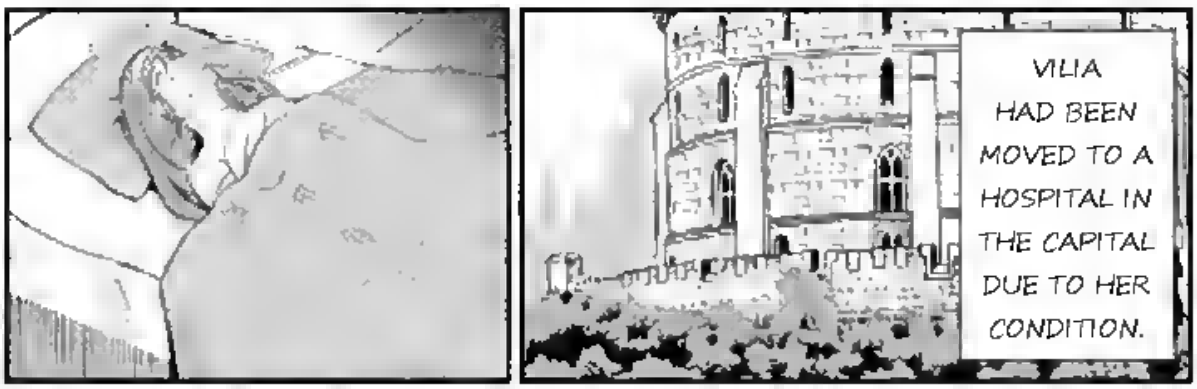
THE ECONOMY IN THE CAPITAL WAS REVITAL-IZED

IN THE DAYS AND NIGHTS UNTIL THEN, IT WAS LIKE A FESTIVAL.

AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE TEMPLE OF THE 4 WORLDS DECIDED TO COME AS WELL.

IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS OF FRIENDLY NATIONS AND EVEN OF FORMER ENEMIES ALSO STARTED TO SHOW UP.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO GREET ME.

SEEING THIS AS FOREIGN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LECTIVAL BEING THE RULER OF THE KINGDOM, THE RESIDENTS GREW EVEN MORE EXCITED.
EVEN THE ALLIANCE OF NATIONS THAT HAD INVADED THE KINGDOM NOT LONG AGO HAD SENT PEOPLE.

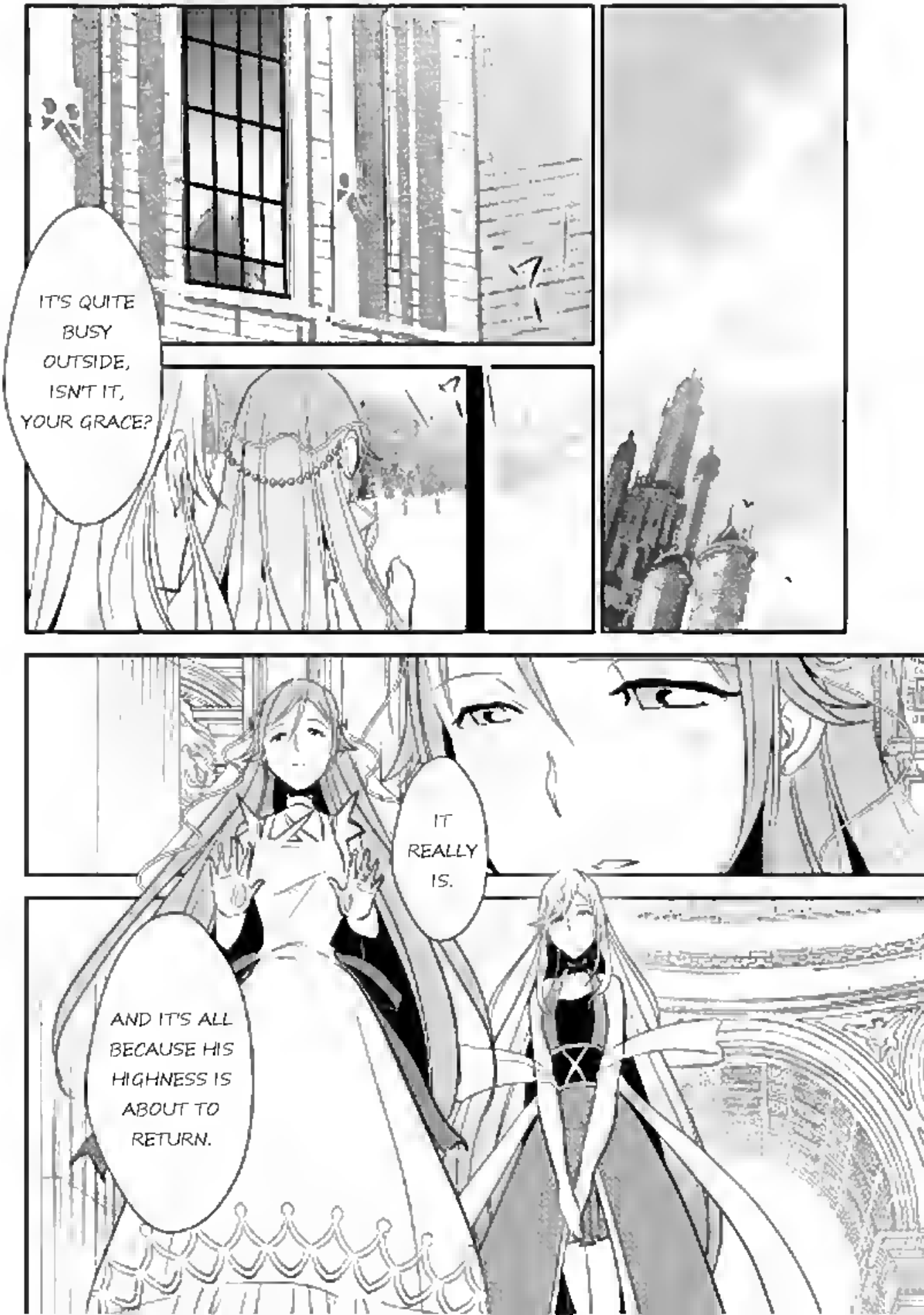

VILIA HAD BEEN MOVED TO A HOSPITAL IN THE CAPITAL DUE TO HER CONDITION.

IT'S LOUD OUTSIDE...
PRINCESS... LECT...
SO WE'VE RETURNED...

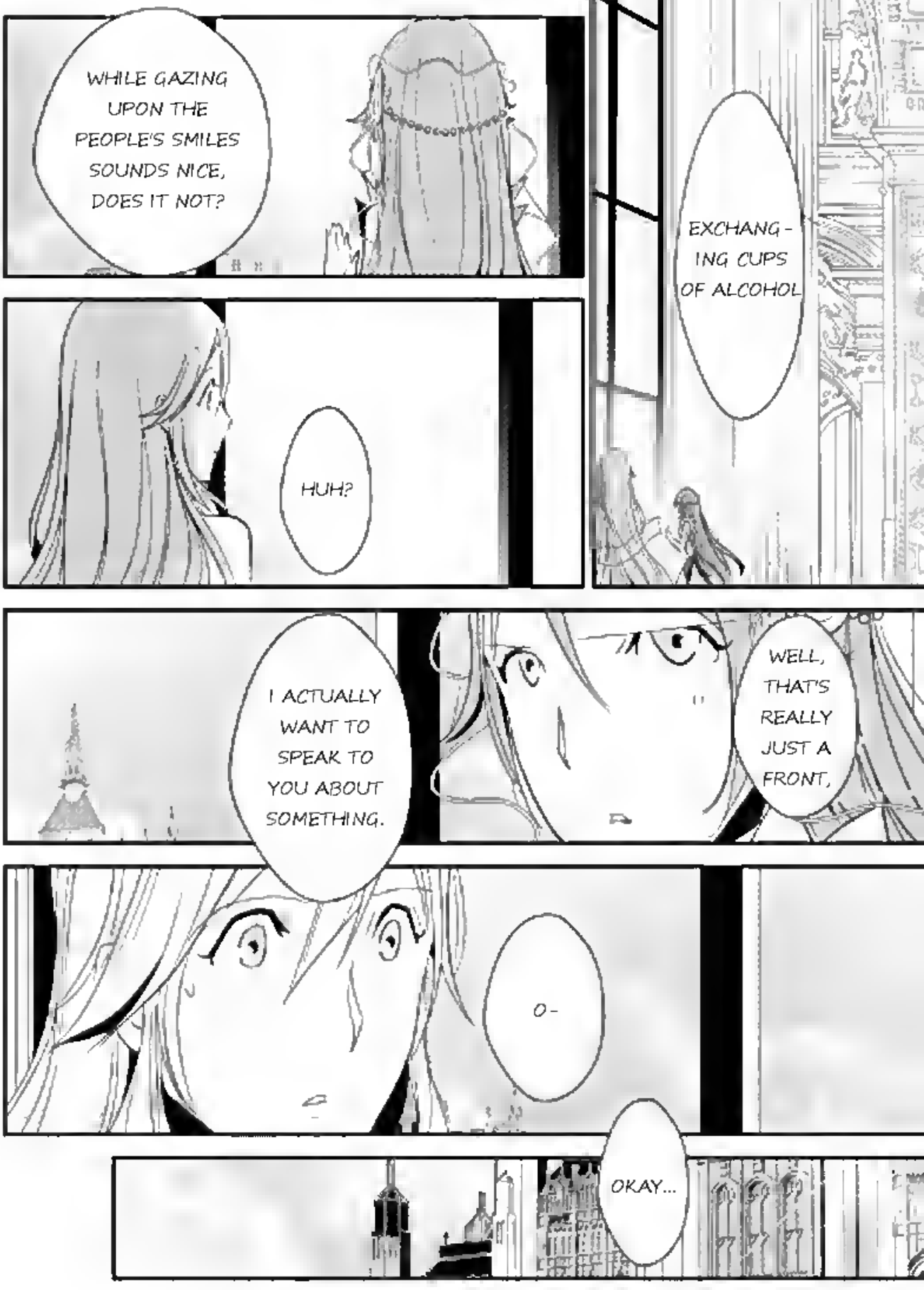
THEIR EXCITEMENT MAKES IT FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF CELEBRATING THE KINGDOM'S FOUNDATION.

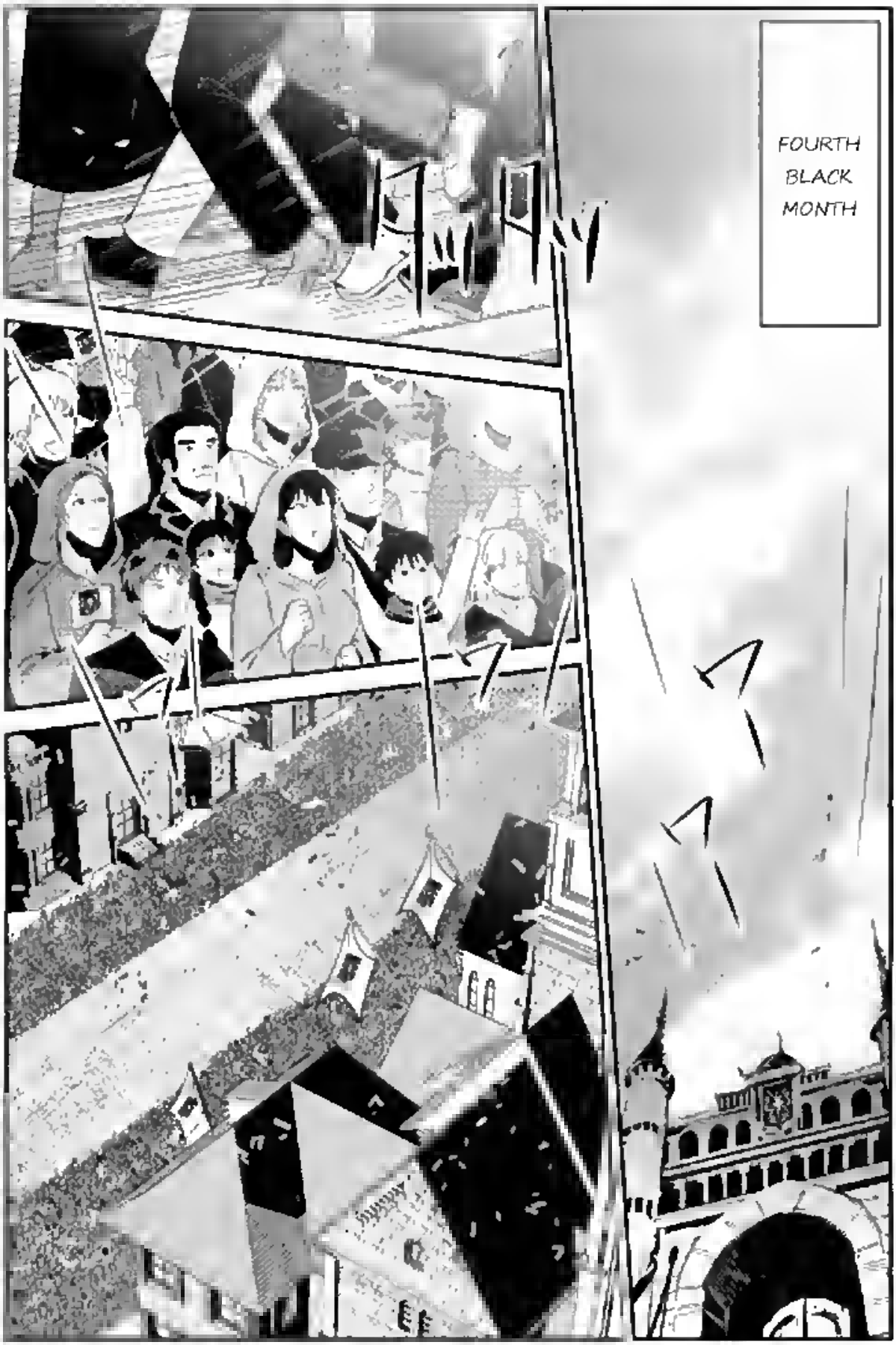
I CAN FINALLY SHOW HIM WHAT THE CAPITAL IS TRULY LIKE.

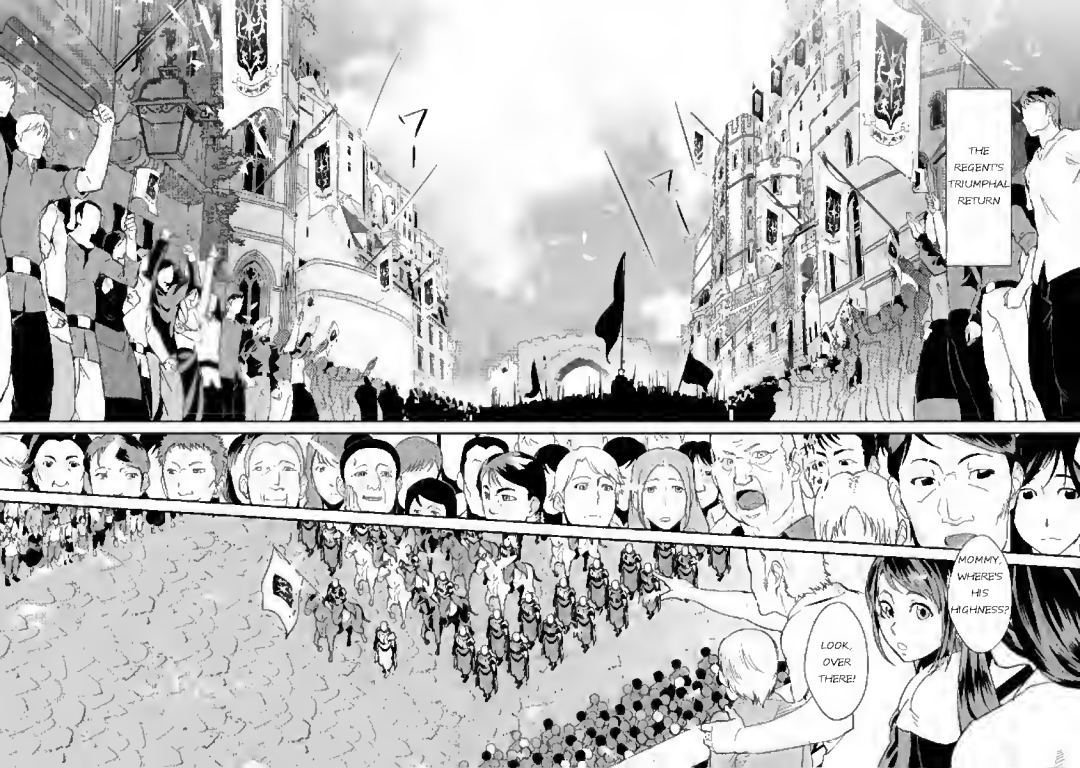
WHITE DRAGON DUKE CARL SHREWDLY ARRIVED EARLY TO THE CAPITAL TO TAKE PART IN THE PREPARATIONS.


IT'S QUITE BUSY OUTSIDE, ISN'T IT, YOUR GRACE?
IT REALLY IS.
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE HIS HIGHNESS IS ABOUT TO RETURN.

IT'S THANKS TO YOUR GRACE WATCHING OVER THE DIAMOND HOUSE AS THE FIRST CONSORT DURING HIS HIGHNESS' ABSENCE.
ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE SO CHEERFUL.
I'VE YET TO BE NAMED AS THE FIRST CONSORT.
I BELIEVE THAT SEEING YOU THROUGH THIS WINDOW EVERY DAY HAS ENCOURAGED ALL OF THEM.
THE PEOPLE ALREADY VIEW YOU AS THE CROWN PRINCESS, YOUR GRACE.
BY THE WAY, WHY DID YOU CALL FOR ME TODAY?


WHILE GAZING UPON THE PEOPLE'S SMILES SOUNDS NICE, DOES IT NOT?
EXCHANG-ING CUPS OF ALCOHOL
HUH?
WELL, THAT'S REALLY JUST A FRONT,
I ACTUALLY WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
O-
OKAY...


FOURTH
BLACK
MONTH


THE REGENT'S TRIUMPHAL RETURN
MOMMY, WHERE'S HIS HIGHNESS?
LOOK, OVER THERE!

再出陣！
万歳！
万歳！
万歳！

WISE AND RECOGNIZED BY EVERYONE, BUT ALSO A VERY DISTANT MAN...
THIS JUST SHOWS HOW GREAT THE KING OF THIS AGE SHOULD BE.
THE FEELINGS BEING DIRECTED AT THE ONE SEEN AS KING...
AND THEN, THERE'S ME...
I'VE SIMPLY GONE WITH THE FLOW AND ONLY DONE WHAT I HAD TO, WHEN I HAD TO, AND AS MUCH AS I HAD TO.
I'VE DECID
NO MA
HOW AN
EVEN IF I
GIVE UP,
I WON'T
ABANDON
THIS.
OR AF
MA
P
Y
NS
ING
HER
OUTE. ABAN-
DONMENT
MEANS
THROWING
AWAY MY
FUTURE.

皆に慕われ認められた
PEOPLE ADORE ME...
人生とは本当に不思議なことが起こる
LIFE IS TRULY FULL OF STRANGE EVENTS.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK IT'S JUST LUCK, BUT...
IT SEEMS SHE WON HIS HIGHNESS' FAVOR!
IS APPARENTLY THE DAUGHTER OF THE HERO GALIAN ARDEN!
THAT GIRL BEHIND HIS HIGHNESS

妃殿下!
妃殿下!
姫さまだ!
わぁ!
妃殿下!
.....
"PRIN-CESS"?
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
I'M NOT REALLY USED TO THIS...
... COULD I PERHAPS RIDE IN THE CAR-

YOU'RE ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE GALAHA'S PROXY.
YOU KNOW WE CAN'T DO THAT...

BESIDES,
UGH...

THE PEOPLE YOUR FATHER PROTECTED ARE HERE BLESSING YOU NOW.

DAD...
きっ
平坦
THE ROAD
HIS HIGHNESS
RIDES ALONG
PROBABLY
ISN'T EVEN.
道は
よう
あなた
この世
I'LL CONTINUE
THROUGH THE
WORLD YOU
PROTECTED.
ALONGSIDE
HIM UNTIL THE
VERY END.
最後まで

WHILE HER PHYSICAL INJURIES HAD HEALED, HER MIND HAD STILL NOT RECOVERED.
MERIELA WAS RIDING IN THE CARRIAGE BEHIND THEM AT THAT TIME.
……
RIEDE ARDEN... DAUGHTER OF GALIAN ARDEN... AS A DRAGON AND AS THE FUTURE QUEEN,
GH...
BESIDE LECT...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE THERE

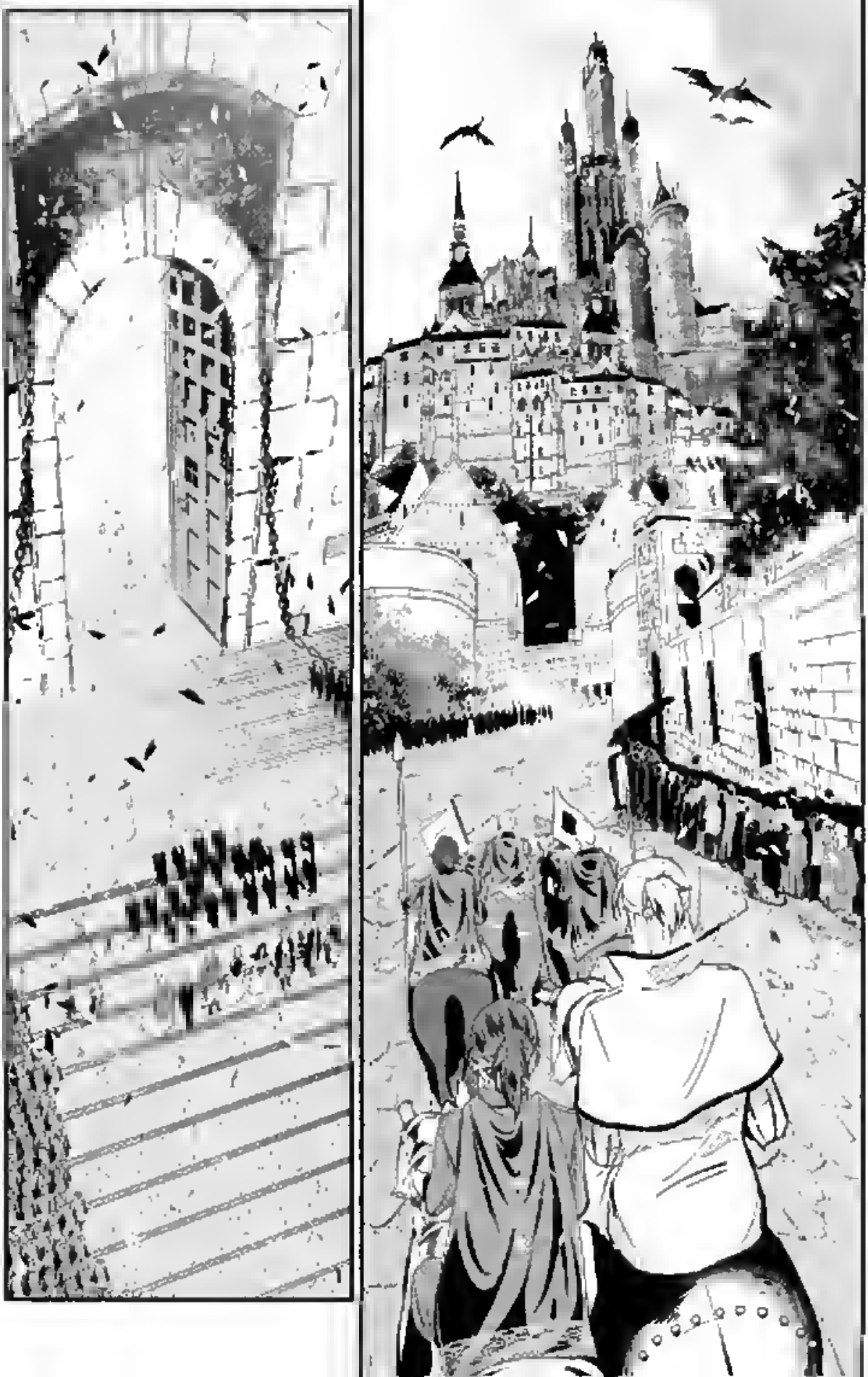
LECT...
IF ONLY WE WERE STILL TOGETHER BACK
LECT...
AT THE WHITE DRAGON PALACE.
LECT...!
IF ONLY YOU WERE SMILING IN FRONT OF ME.

I'M SORRY...
THIS PAIN IS NOTHING.
I'M SO SORRY...
わかっ
誰かが
I KNOW THAT I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME
ない…
BUT MYSELF.
弱い自
I WAS WEAK...
悪い…
UGH...
UGH...

ALONG THE WAY TO THE PALACE, LECTIVAL TRULY RECOGNIZED JUST HOW WEALTHY THE KINGDOM WAS.

THE MIXINGE OF ALL THOSE CULTURES FOR OVER 2000 YEARS GAVE THE KINGDOM ITS CURRENT FORM.

BECAUSE OF THE KING'S DECLARATION THAT ALL ARE EQUAL, THE KINGDOM ACCEPTED PEOPLE OF ALL RACES AS CITIZENS,



WELCOME BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOU.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN LABORIOUS TO GREET ME LIKE THIS.
YOUR HIGH-NESS...

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO MEET YOU,
MY NAME IS LUKEETY FEL FEALIOS